

## AUTOMATIC SIDE SELECTION IN DOUBLE-RING TOPOLOGIES

### Abstract of the Disclosure

Connecting a new node to a double ring network or establishing a new network

- 5 having a double ring network is greatly simplified by automatic mapping of logical interfaces to physical interfaces to conform to a mapping or polarity observed by other nodes in the network. A node may discover the network polarity via a message received from an adjacent node and, if necessary, invert the mapping between its two logical interfaces and two physical interfaces. This facilitates installation by relaxing the
- 10 requirement that the correct media pair be connected to the correct node physical interface. Nodes equipped with this automatic side selection capability may interoperate with nodes that are not so-equipped.